

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206330

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ORIGIN CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 NGA-01 /021 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:MAPALMER:MAJ

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN

CU/EA - MZINOMAN (DRAFT)

EA/PRCM - JTAYLOR (DRAFT)

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R 191524Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206330

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SCUL

SUBJECT:CHINESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: NGA CATALOGUE

REF: A. PEKING 1104; B. PEKING 956

1. AS USLO MAY BE AWARE, ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM NOW IS SELLING CANADIAN-EDITED VERSION OF BRITISH CATALOGUE. PRC AGREEMENT TO THIS CAME ONLY AFTER LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION AND WITH GREAT CHINESE RELUCTANCE, MUCH OF WHICH UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF LACK OF AWARENESS OF CANADIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED OF CURRENT PRC POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES. AS RESULT, ANY CATALOGUE BASED UPON BRITISH CATALOGUE, HOWEVER AMENDED BY U.S., NOW APPEARS TO BE ANATHEMA TO CHINESE. THEREFORE, NGA HAS ABANDONED HOPE OF GETTING PRC CLEARANCE FOR ANY NGA-EDITED VERSION OF BRITISH TEXT. (FYI: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHINESE ARE OPPOSED TO CONCEPT OF WESTERN CATALOGUES IN GENERAL; THEIR OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED PRIMARILY TOWARD BRITISH TEXT AND AUTHOR WILLIAM WATSON.) AS A RESULT NGA HAS COME UP WITH PLAN WHICH SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PRC WHILE PROVIDING MINIMALLY USEFUL CATALOGUE MATERIALS FOR U.S. PUBLIC. NGA PROPOSES TO PRINT AND SELL TWO SEPARATE PUBLICATIONS: A) UNILLUSTRATED BOOKLET CONTAINING FULL AND EXACT TEXT CONTAINED WITHIN 144-PAGE MIMEOGRAPHED PRC CATALOGUE HANDED OVER TO YOU

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BY HSIAO TEH (REFTEL B). ONLY NGA CHANGES ARE CORRECTION

OF TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS AND PRINTING LAYOUT. INCORRECT

GRAMMAR AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE WILL REMAIN AS WRITTEN BY CHINESE. (FYI: YOU WILL RECALL THAT HSIAO ALSO HANDED OVER SMALL RED-COVER CATALOGUE ALONG WITH MIMEOGRAPHED TEXT. TWO TEXTS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AND NGA HAS CHOSEN MIMEOGRAPHED VERSION.) B) IN ADDITION, NGA PROPOSES TO SELL PICTURE BOOK CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXHIBITS PRODUCED BY RAINBIRD, LTD. OF LONDON. THESE ARE THE SAME PHOTOS USED IN BRITISH, AUSTRIAN, SWEDISH AND CANADIAN CATALOGUES. ONLY TEXTUAL MATERIAL IN THIS BOOK WILL BE: CAPTIONS, REPRINTED IN EXACT TEXT FROM 144-PAGE CATALOGUE SUPPLIED BY PRC; JOINT FORWARD BY NGA DIRECTOR BROWN AND NELSON GALLERY DIRECTOR SICKMAN; NAMELISTS AND CREDITS OF BOTH PRC AND U.S. PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN NGA SHOW; CHRONOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION OF BRONZE VESSELS (TO BE TRANSLATED, VERBATIM, FROM AUSTRIAN CATALOGUE).

2. DUMMIES OF BOTH PUBLICATIONS BEING POUCHED TO YOU SEPT. 18 BY UNCLASSIFIED POUCH. WHEN RECEIVED, REQUEST YOU MEET WITH HSIAO TO HAND THEM OVER, DRAWING UPON ABOVE AS YOU FEEL NECESSARY. YOU SHOULD ASK HSIAO FOR COMMENTS ON THESE PUBLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOTING THAT IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING, NGA WILL BE SENDING DUMMIES TO THE PRINTER WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. COMMENT: WE OF COURSE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT NGA PRODUCE MAJOR EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE OF STANDARD USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL SHOWS OF THIS IMPORTANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, ACrimonious AND TIME-CONSUMING DEBATE BETWEEN PRC AND CANADIANS FAILED TO PRODUCE VERSION OF BRITISH CATALOGUE WHICH CHINESE WOULD APPROVE FOR U.S. USE. THUS NGA PLAN SEEMS BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE WASHINGTON OPENING. IF HSIAO ASKS ABOUT NELSON GALLERY'S (NEL) CATALOGUE PLANS, YOU MAY SAY THAT TWO NGA PUBLICATIONS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE ADOPTED FOR USE BY NEL AND THAT YOU WILL BE READY TO DISCUSS NEL CATALOGUE PLANS WITH HIM AT AN EARLY DATE. (FYI: NEL STILL HAS HOPES OF PRODUCING ADDITIONAL MAJOR CATALOGUE FOR ITS SHOW AND IS LOOKING

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INTO POSSIBILITY OF TRANSLATING ALL OR PART OF AUSTRIAN CATALOGUE, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS ACCEPTABLE TO CHINESE.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARCHEOLOGY, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, CULTURAL EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE206330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAPALMER:MAJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740264-0174
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740931/aaaaazyx.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PEKING 1104; B. PEKING 956
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HINESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: NGA CATALOGUE
TAGS: SCUL, CH, US
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005